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ARAB REACTION TO USSR-ISRAELI DIPLOMATIC BREAK

[Comment: Typical of the editorials appearing in the Arabic press and dealing with the diplomatic break between the USSR and Israel is the following editorial by Muhammad at-Tabi'i, one of the most prominent journalists in the Arab World, appearing in the 21 February 1953 issue of the Egyptian newspaper Akhbar al-Yawm.]

Congratulations to the Arabs and the Arabic press for the cold shoulder they turned to the news of the break of diplomatic relations between the USSR and Israel, even though some papers spoke spitefully.

While the Arabs are pleased to see Israel lose the friendship of the USSR, they cannot forget, however, the full support rendered Israel by the USSR since 1947, both in the UN during the Palestine War, when men and arms from Moscow, Prague, and Warsaw were sent to the Jews to help turn the tide against the Arabs, and in the USSR and satellite press, which encouraged Zionist efforts in the creation of Israel.

When the USSR first supported Israel and provided it with armed assistance during the Palestine War, it did not do so because of a genuine desire to see a Jewish national home established there; but, rather, its main purpose was to create a state of turmoil and instability throughout the Middle East, particularly in the Arab states, and thereby give the statesmen of the US and the West something to worry about.

At that time, the US, under Truman, was the prime supporter directly responsible for the creation of Israel. Then the USSR proceeded to make Israel a base for Communism in the Arab East, where Communist agents and sympathizers would infiltrate into Jordan, Lebanon, Egypt, Syria, etc. The USSR not only permitted but even encouraged the Jews behind the Iron Curtain to migrate to Israel. It was careful, however, to select these immigrants, making sure that they were loyal and trained Communists. Thus, a Communist Party was organized in Israel, a party which pledged allegiance to Moscow.

Then the cold war between the US and the USSR found its way into Israel, with each country trying to ally itself with Israel. At the same time, Israel sought to get benefits from both camps. Israel's shrewd playing of this game with the

- 1 -

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two powers, however, fooled neither Washington nor Moscow. When both met the pressure on Israel to come out and state whether it was with the East or with the West, it assessed the situation and decided to swing its full allegiance to the West because the headquarters for international Jewry today is in the US and because Israel has been living up to now on dollar donations from the US.

Thus, Israel began shifting its policy toward the West, clamping down on the Communists, seizing their press, and openly discussing the dissolution of the Communist Party. Consequently, the USSR realized that it had lost the cold war in Israel, and the break of diplomatic relations, therefore, became a foregone conclusion.

The purge which followed in Moscow against a group of prominent doctors, most of whom were Jews, was not carried out because of Soviet love for the Arabs or because the USSR was attempting to gain Arab friendship. The causes for the purge were strictly internal and motivated by the struggle for power among the Soviet leaders, particularly between Malenkov and Beria.

Then, as a result of the purge, Israeli reaction was expressed by widespread anti-Soviet activities and by Sharett's strongly worded anti-Moscow speech, which was published by the Israeli press. This was followed by the bomb explosion in the USSR legation in Tel-Aviv, which caused the USSR to sever its relations with Israel.

The material results of the break are as follows:

1. The campaign against the 2 million Jews behind the Iron Curtain will increase.
2. The Jews, who control the media of world propaganda, particularly in the US, will start an anti-Soviet campaign as they did before against Hitler and Nazism. This campaign between the Jews and the USSR will draw World War III nearer.
3. Israel has lost its bargaining power with the West, because it can no longer threaten to join the East, and therefore it is now forced to accept the dictates of the West.
4. The Arab states, if they play their cards correctly, can benefit from this situation and increase their bargaining power with the West against Israel and at the same time realize many of their other aspirations.

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- 2 -

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